

Claims: I claim:

1 1. A binder for releasably binding a plurality of loose-leaves  
2 comprising:

3 a conduit casing having a conduit;

4 a spine embedded within said conduit;

5 a plurality of binder rings attached to said spine;

6 each of said binder rings rotatable relative to said  
7 conduit;

8 a actuator for opening all of said binder rings  
9 substantially together;

10 an attachment means for subsequent assembly of said conduit  
11 casing with a complementary cover portion;

12 wherein said spine is rotatably disposed in said conduit as  
13 a pivot about which said cover is rotatable;

14 said conduit casing is made of a sheet of material and has  
15 a wrapping portion defining said conduit and a planar portion,  
16 thickness of said sheet when wrapping portion is unwrapped is  
17 less than diameter of said conduit;

18 whereby a subassembly can be manufactured independently of  
19 said complementary cover portion to facilitate efficiencies in  
20 component manufacturing, packaging, distribution and assembly.

1 2. The binder of claim 1 further comprising a complementary  
2 cover portion with an open-groove conduit adjacent a fold; said  
3 wrapping portion shaped as a tubular portion; said planar  
4 portion containing said attachment means; said conduit casing is  
5 attached to said complementary cover portion such that said  
6 open-groove conduit receives said tubular portion; whereby said  
7 conduit casing is positioned more flush with surfaces of said  
8 complementary cover portion.

1 3. A binder for releasably binding a plurality of loose-leaves  
2 comprising:

3 a cover comprising a back cover, a middle cover, and a  
4 front cover;

5 a plurality of binder rings;

6 said middle cover joins said back cover to said front  
7 cover;

8 said back cover has a conduit casing with a tubular portion  
9 and a substantially planar portion;

10 said conduit casing attached to said back cover near an  
11 edge of said planar portion remotely opposite said tubular  
12 portion;

13 said conduit casing defines a conduit and a plurality of  
14 slots, each of said slots receiving at least a portion of one of  
15 said binder rings;

16 each of said binder rings rotatably disposed about an axis  
17 located within said conduit;  
18 said back cover separated from said middle cover by a fold;  
19 said conduit casing is made of a flexible material and  
20 straddles said fold;  
21 said tubular portion lifted by said middle cover when said  
22 cover is closed;  
23 said tubular portion droops around said fold when said  
24 cover is folded flatly open 360 degrees along said fold;  
25 whereby said tubular portion is substantially flush with  
26 flat formation of said cover.

1 4. A binder for releasably binding a plurality of loose-leaves  
2 comprising:  
3 a conduit casing having a conduit;  
4 a plurality of binder rings which are each openable and  
5 closable;  
6 an instant user-affixed adhesive attachment for attaching  
7 said conduit casing to a surface;  
8 said conduit casing is made of a sheet of flexible  
9 material;  
10 said conduit casing has a wrapping portion and a  
11 substantially planar portion,  
12 said wrapping portion defines said conduit;

13        said planar portion has said instant user-affixed adhesive  
14 attachment;

15        each of said binder rings substantially rotatable about an  
16 axis located within said conduit;

17        said conduit casing defines a plurality of slots, each of  
18 said slots intersecting said conduit and receiving at least a  
19 near portion of one of said binder rings;

20        a remote portion of each of said binder rings is rotatable  
21 about an edge of said conduit casing;

22        whereby said instant user-affixed adhesive attachment  
23 offers ready, quick and easy mounting of said conduit casing  
24 with said binder rings upon a user-selected complementary cover  
25 portion such as a file folder.

1    5.    The binder of claim 4 wherein said flexible material  
2 selected from the group consisting of canvas, paper, card,  
3 cardboard, plastic, vinyl and fabric.

1    6.    The binder of claim 4 further comprising a pocket spanning  
2 gap;

3        whereby said pocket spanning gap facilitates increased  
4 access to pockets when said conduit casing is attached to  
5 pocket-enhanced folders.

1    7.    A loose-leaf binder cover comprising:

2        a substantially planar cover portion;

3        a conduit casing;

an instant pivot fastening;

said conduit casing is a cover portion that defines a conduit and is connected to said planar cover portion;

said conduit casing able to receive a user-selected compatible pivot binding having an axial portion and a plurality of openable binder rings such that said axial portion of said pivot binding able to be rotatably disposed in said conduit as a pivot about which said planar cover portion is rotatable;

said conduit casing defines a plurality of slots, each of said slots intersecting said conduit and able to receive at least a portion of one of said openable binder rings of said pivot binding;

said conduit casing is integrally formed with said instant pivot fastening;

said instant pivot fastening comprises a flexible material adjoining an aperture to said conduit, said flexible material yields sufficiently under manual manipulation without tools to open said aperture wide enough to receive said axial portion of said pivot binding into said conduit;

said instant pivot fastening has a ready closure means to narrow or close said aperture enough to securely fasten said axial portion of said pivot binding within said conduit while accommodating rotation of said binder rings;

27       said conduit is sized to snugly hold said axial portion of  
28       said pivot binding such that translational motion of said axial  
29       portion is restricted without hindering preset range of  
30       rotational motion of said binder rings;

31       said planar cover portion substantially wider than said  
32       conduit;

33       width of said slot not more than five times largest  
34       interspacing between said slots;

35       whereby at the time of binding loose-leaves, a user is  
36       provided with valued flexibility to choose appropriate said  
37       pivot binding especially with regard to ring-size and optional  
38       actuator.

1       8.   The binder of claim 7 wherein said flexible material  
2       selected from the group consisting of canvas, paper, card,  
3       cardboard, plastic, vinyl and fabric.

1       9.   The binder of claim 7 wherein said instant pivot fastening  
2       comprises an instant user-sealed wrap-flap closure; said wrap-  
3       flap closure comprises a wrapping portion made of a sheet of  
4       said flexible material, a free end having said ready closure  
5       means for attaching said free end of said wrapping portion to  
6       said planar cover portion to close said conduit, said ready  
7       closure means selected from the group consisting of self-  
8       adhesive, water-activated adhesive, removable adhesive,

9 restickable adhesive, plastic zipper-lock, hooks and loops, tab  
10 and slot, flatly-spreadable two-prong fasteners, and snap  
11 fasteners.

1 10. The binder of claim 7 wherein said instant pivot fastening  
2 comprises a snap-in clasp closure; said snap-in clasp closure  
3 comprises a resilient material adjoining said aperture; said  
4 axial portion of said pivot binding is snapped through  
5 transiently expandable said aperture into said conduit casing  
6 and secured via return to narrow form of said aperture.

1 11. A loose-leaf binder cover comprising:

2 a substantially planar cover portion;

3 a conduit casing;

4 an instant user-sealed wrap-flap closure;

5 said conduit casing defines a conduit and is connected to  
6 said planar cover portion;

7 said conduit casing able to receive a user-selected  
8 compatible skeleton having a spine attached to a plurality of  
9 openable binder rings such that said spine is able to be  
10 rotatably disposed in said conduit as a pivot about which said  
11 planar cover portion is rotatable;

12 said conduit casing defines a plurality of slots, each of  
13 said slots intersecting said conduit and able to receive at  
14 least a portion of one of said openable binder rings;

15       said conduit casing is integrally formed with said instant  
16 user-sealed wrap-flap closure;

17       said instant user-sealed wrap-flap closure is made from a  
18 sheet of flexible material and comprises a wrapping portion and  
19 an adjoining substantially planar free end;

20       said planar free end having a ready closure means for  
21 securely closing said conduit casing;

22       said ready closure means selected from the group consisting  
23 of self-adhesive, water-activated adhesive, removable adhesive,  
24 restickable adhesive, plastic zipper-lock, hooks and loops, tab  
25 and slot, flatly-spreadable two-prong fasteners and snap  
26 fasteners;

27       each of said plurality of slots has a closed perimeter when  
28 said wrapping portion is flatly unwrapped prior to assembly such  
29 that said conduit casing has continuous longitudinal portions  
30 one and two that are on opposite sides of said plurality of  
31 slots and that are parallel to longitudinal dimension of said  
32 conduit;

33       unwrapped length of said slots at least as long as an outer  
34 diameter of said plurality of binder rings;

35       whereby each of said continuous longitudinal portions one  
36 and two of said conduit casing are much easier to manipulate  
37 during assembly with said user-selected skeleton than an



38 alternative comb-like portion with a discontinuous edge  
39 interrupted by numerous said slots especially when working with  
40 said flexible material.

1 12. A binder for releasably binding a plurality of loose-leaves  
2 comprising:

3 a cover having a conduit;

4 a skeleton having a spine and a plurality of binder rings;

5 each of said binder rings is openable and is attached to  
6 said spine;

7 said skeleton is a single piece of molded plastic;

8 each of said binder rings is substantially constrained to  
9 rotate with said spine when said binder rings are closed;

10 said cover defines a plurality of slots, each of said slots  
11 intersecting said conduit and receiving at least a portion of  
12 one of said binder rings;

13 said spine is rotatably disposed in said conduit as a pivot  
14 about which said cover is rotatable such that each of said  
15 binder rings is rotatable relative to said conduit;

16 said cover comprises a back cover with a planar portion  
17 alongside a wrapping portion, said wrapping portion defines said  
18 conduit;

19           said wrapping portion is made of a sheet of soft flexible  
20 material of substantially uniform thickness when flatly  
21 unwrapped;

22           said wrapping portion has end one and end two that are  
23 broad and parallel to the longitudinal dimension of said  
24 conduit;

25           both said end one and said end two of said wrapping portion  
26 are smoothly and rivetlessly attached to said planar portion of  
27 said back cover to structurally support said conduit.

1   13. The binder of claim 12 wherein said soft flexible material  
2 selected from the group consisting of canvas, paper, card,  
3 cardboard, plastic, vinyl and fabric.

1   14. The binder of claim 12 wherein said slots have slot-  
2 extending slits;

3           said slits are flexible to transiently expand enabling said  
4 binder rings to pass through said slots during assembly of said  
5 skeleton with said cover;

6           extended length of said slots including said slits at least  
7 as long as an outer diameter of said plurality of binder rings;

8           said slits are very narrow after completion of assembly of  
9 said skeleton with said cover such that opposite edges of said  
10 slit are so close as to provide a nearly smooth uninterrupted  
11 surface.

1 15. The binder of claim 12 wherein each of said plurality of  
2 slots has a closed perimeter when said wrapping portion is  
3 flatly unwrapped prior to assembly such that said cover has  
4 continuous longitudinal portions one and two that are on  
5 opposite sides of said plurality of slots and that are parallel  
6 to longitudinal dimension of said conduit;

7       unwrapped length of said slots at least as long as an outer  
8 diameter of said plurality of binder rings;

9       whereby each of said continuous longitudinal portions one  
10 and two of said cover are much easier to manipulate during  
11 assembly than an alternative comb-like portion with a  
12 discontinuous edge interrupted by numerous said slots especially  
13 when manipulating said soft flexible material.

1 16. The binder of claim 12 further comprising a sliding zipper  
2 tab; a pair of zipper-tab stops, said zipper tab stops located  
3 at opposite ends of said spine to retain said sliding zipper tab  
4 on said spine, said zipper tab slidable along said spine in  
5 either direction to open or close said binder rings in rapid  
6 sequence via zipper action.

1 17. A binder for releasably binding a plurality of loose-leaves  
2 comprising:

3       at least one ring that is openable and closable;

4       an orthogonal base;

5           a closure to secure ring closed;  
6           said ring has an oblong perimeter;  
7           said ring has a minor diameter defining an upright ring  
8 position when said minor diameter is substantially vertical;  
9           said ring has roughly-vertical column-like thick portions  
10 when situated in said upright ring position;  
11          said ring has a roughly-horizontal bow-like thin upper  
12 portion when situated in said upright ring position;  
13          said ring has a roughly-horizontal extendable lower portion  
14 when situated in said upright ring position;  
15          each of said column-like thick portions are on average  
16 thicker than said bow-like thin upper portion;  
17          said orthogonal base perpendicularly intersects said lower  
18 portion of said ring;  
19          said ring is reversibly compressible relative to a moderate  
20 compressive force roughly exerted in the direction of said minor  
21 diameter such that said column-like thick portions resist  
22 permanent buckling while said bow-like thin upper portion and  
23 said extendable lower portion more readily flatten and widen  
24 outward to provide most of desired reversible vertical  
25 compressibility and spring back to resume relaxed expanded form  
26 of said ring upon removal of said moderate compressive force.

1 18. The binder of claim 17 wherein said ring has a minor  
2 dimension and a major dimension; said major dimension is at  
3 least 1.5 times said minor dimension when fully relaxed and  
4 expanded.

1 19. The binder of claim 17 further comprising a telescopic  
2 interlock closure.

1 20. The binder of claim 17 further comprising a cover having a  
2 ring-crush resister; said ring crush resister positioned  
3 adjacent said ring as a physical obstruction within said cover  
4 to inhibit permanent deformation of said openable ring due to  
5 excessive compressive force exerted in the direction of said  
6 minor diameter of said openable ring by sharing load of said  
7 compressive force with said openable ring.

1 21. The binder of claim 17 further comprising a cover having  
2 effectively a primary cover fold when said cover is closed such  
3 that said cover has an aesthetically pleasing streamline contour  
4 when closed and is ultra thin to save space.

1 22. The binder of claim 17 wherein said primary cover fold  
2 comprises two very close substantially 90-degree folds  
3 effectively acting as one substantially 180-degree fold;  
4 distance between said 90-degree folds less than half of said  
5 minor diameter of said openable ring.

**PATENT**

**Docket No. 3562-4000US3**

- 1 23. The binder of claim 17 wherein said ring has a flip-top
- 2 hinge.